(c) the steps taken to adopt more stringent, transparent and fool-proof procedure to procure only genuine drugs for the national health system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is true that procurement through MSO has come down in the last few years, but the reason was that the formulary had not been approved. It may be mentioned that the formulary for MSO/CGHS has now been approved.

The procedure for registration of firms is governed by the Medical Store's Manual and the orders issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Drugs from unregistered firms are not purchased. Only during emergencies like flood, earthquake cyclone etc. drugs may have to be procured from unregistered firms to meet urgent requirement with the permission of the competent authority, if registered firms are not forthcoming.

It is not correct to say that samples are sent by the firms themselves. Drugs samples are picked up randomly, coded and sent to two different Government approved laboratories for testing. Those drugs which fail the test are never supplied.

Any complaint with regard to the irregularities in procedures in the procurement of drugs through Medical Stores is immediately got enquired into for fixing responsibility on the officials concerned and departmental proceedings are initiated. If any case of supply of sub-standard drugs comes to notice, immediate action is taken to return the available stock to the supplier firm to get replacements.

Ban on anti-smoking drugs

2946. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of multi-national

companies have sought permission from Government for production of anti-smoking drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the MNCs with the details of tests conducted on these drugs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of persons have died in the United Kingdom recently after consuming anti-smoking drugs; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to ban these drugs and await trails from other advanced countries, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Following two multinational companies have been allowed to import and market following drugs as an aid to smoking cessation.

(i) M/s. Novartis (India)—Nicotine Patches—approved in May, 1995.

(ii) M/s. Glaxo (India) Ltd.—Bupropion Tab—approved in June, 2001.

These products are approved on the basis of extensive international clinical data base alongwith comprehensive post-marketing experience and recommendation from experts in India.

(c) and (d) There are no such official reports that a large number of persons dies in U.K. after consuming anti-smoking drugs.

The latest safety report by Medicine Control Agency (MCA), UK on Glaxo Smithkline's smoking cessation product—Zyban (Bupropion) says it has examined the 57 cases of death since it launch in June, 2000 and found that the contribution of Zyban to these fatalities was unproven and in the majority of cases the underlying condition of the individuals could be the reason for the deaths.

It added that the products safety had been under constant close scrutiny in the UK, and that the rate of U.K. ADR reports had fallen noticeably since new guidance was issued in May, 2001 advising a slower increase in the dosage of Zyban together with strengthened warning.

The drug Bupropion is currently being marketed in number of countries including USA, UK etc. and has not been withdrawn or banned. In India amendments have been made in prescribing information of ZYBAN, which include special warnings and precautions for its use. Also the drug is required to be dispensed against prescription only.

Sophisticated medical facilities and equipments in Districts Hospital, Deoria, U.P.

†2947. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to equip the District Hospital of Deoria, U.P. with sophisticated medical facilities and equipments;

(b) if so, by when, it will be done and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether adequate doctors and sufficient facilities and resources for the treatment of serious diseases are available in all the departments of Baba Raghava Das Medical College, Gorakhpur; and

(d) if not, by when all these will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India. It is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide

†. Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.